

SECRET

16 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Central Reference

SUBJECT : Progress Report on Implementation of
Recommendations Contained In [REDACTED]
Latin America Trip Report, 12 May 1960.

25X1A9a

Specific recommendations and actions taken are listed as follows:

1. RECOMMENDATION.

[REDACTED]

25X1A

IMPLEMENTATION.

No action has been taken on this recommendation, although it is felt that it is still valid. In view of the fact that Mr. Hilsman has just been designated to head the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, it is felt that probably any further action will have to await his settling into the job and reviewing its functions.

2. RECOMMENDATION.

DD/I briefings of outgoing Ambassadors should include a mention of the importance of the Publications Procurement Program to the Intelligence Community and urge the Ambassador's support of the Program at his Embassy.

25X1A9a

IMPLEMENTATION.

In accordance with this recommendation, the AD/CR sent a Memorandum to the DD/I on 16 June 1960. Mr. Amory noted his agreement to [REDACTED] of his staff, stating that machinery should be set up "to see this is regularly done either by me or AD/CR". On 11 July 1960, [REDACTED] wrote AD/CR that "I suggest that OCR Liaison Division might be the focal point to carry out this activity . . . If the Ambassador is briefed by the Agency formally, you could get [REDACTED] to cover this ground or to provide time in the briefing schedule for an OCR representative to do it. On the other hand, if the Ambassador does not come to the Agency for a formal briefing, your Liaison Division man might be able to catch him on his own ground." Mr. Borel forwarded this to LCD/CR to draw up an SOP. The SOP was transmitted to AD/CR on 28 July 1960, by [REDACTED] of LCD/CR.

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

SECRET

SECRET

As the DD/I sees relatively few of the outgoing Ambassadors, the briefing burden has fallen on [REDACTED] who advises me that he does mention the subject in his briefings. To me, this procedure does not seem sufficiently forceful. The whole subject should be reviewed with Mr. Hilman.

25X1A9a

3. RECOMMENDATION.

25X1A

A full-time, Regional Publications Procurement Officer should be appointed for Latin America. [REDACTED]

25X1A

IMPLEMENTATION.

This recommendation has been forwarded to the Department of State, carrying with it the endorsement of PROCLIB. The last report we have had indicates that such a position at FSO-3 is included in the State Department budget estimates for FY 1962. [REDACTED]

25X1A

4. RECOMMENDATION.

If a Regional Publications Procurement Officer for Latin America is not appointed, a representative from ICD/FP should make an annual trip at least to the major book centers in the area.

IMPLEMENTATION.

Pending the appointment of a full time regional FPO for Latin America, the Latin American Area Coordinator, AE/Ly, will make a field trip to the area in June 1961, as confirmed by a recent PROCLIB meeting.

5. RECOMMENDATION.

The processing of orders for specific publications from ICD/FP to the field can continue to be handled by administrative personnel in the Embassies, as at present. However, the Publications Procurement Officers should be advised of these specific orders and keep abreast of them to a much greater extent than they now do. Publications Officers should advise ICD/FP of the non-availability of material requested in specific orders or the non-availability of the desired number of copies.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

IMPLEMENTATION.

Implementation of this recommendation depends solely on the individual Embassy and PPOs. They were briefed on this point in the course of our trip, but we will not know whether our recommendation has been properly implemented until [REDACTED] returns from his June trip.

25X1A9a

6. RECOMMENDATION.

The selection of, and reporting on, available publications by the Publications Procurement Officers in Latin America must be improved. The Publications Procurement Officers should visit bookstores on a regular basis, as well as keep an eye on the newstands and kiosks for new periodicals. In particular, the very excellent Communist Party outlets should be well covered.

IMPLEMENTATION.

25X1A9a

This recommendation also depends on the individual initiative of the PPOs in the field. While there appears to have been some slight improvement, it will be difficult to determine the degree to which this recommendation has been followed until [REDACTED] returns from his forthcoming trip.

7. RECOMMENDATION.

The entire attitude of the Publications Procurement Officers towards their duties in this field must be improved. Publications Procurement cannot be considered the least of their functions if the Program is to operate satisfactorily in Latin America. In that the Program is covered by State Department directives stemming from a Presidential Executive Order, these directives must be complied with, and the Publications Officers should find the time to do so.

IMPLEMENTATION.

This recommendation was urged on all the PPOs in the field and continuing steps are taken in briefing of PPOs to stress this as strongly as the Department of State will permit. However, this question of PPO "attitude" depends in large measure on the forcefulness of the Department and the individual Ambassadors. This still leaves considerable to be desired. The earliest opportunity should be taken by the DD/I and AD/CR to bring this whole question forcefully to the attention of Mr. Hilsman as he settles into his new duties. It should be emphasized that the PPO program is covered by State Department directives stemming from a Presidential Executive Order, and that it is mandatory and not voluntary. It should be noted that poor PPO efficiency reports do not adversely affect

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

the careers of Foreign Service Officers, as witness the promotion this month of the former PPO in Santiago, Chile, one of the weakest in the field. We have attempted to urge these points on Mr. McAfee, both through CCR and through PROCEB.

8. RECOMMENDATION.

The annual Publications Selection Guide (CA-1005 for F/T 60) must be simplified and made more understandable. It should be prepared on a regional basis, rather than on a world-wide basis as at present. Its accompanying documents, such as the fiscal instructions, should also be rewritten.

IMPLEMENTATION.

On 29 June, 1960, a draft Selection Guide went to the Department of State as is customary at the beginning of each fiscal year. To date, the Department has recommended so many editorial and textual changes that only about 1 February has a final draft gone back to the Department for forwarding to the field. This means that the PPOs will have been operating without a current guide for almost three quarters of the fiscal year. Some attempt was made in this edition of the Selection Guide to point out a few generalized short-comings in the program and suggestions for correcting deficiencies as a guide to all PPOs. Many of these were stricken out by the Department as possibly being considered critical. The delay in publishing this year's Guide must be placed on the Department. Furthermore, this is still the old, world-wide Selection Guide about which PPOs in Latin America have previously complained. No attempt was made to break it up on a regional basis. As far as is known, the fiscal instructions have not been rewritten, as this does not lie within the province of State's Intelligence Bureau, and they have made no recommendations that we know of to their fiscal people.

9. RECOMMENDATION.

The selection funds at each post should be turned over in a lump sum to the Publications Procurement Officers as a petty cash fund, where the Embassy regulations permit, so that the Publications Procurement Officer does not have to go to the fiscal officer every time he buys a book or periodical. The Publications Procurement Officer can then account periodically to the Embassy Fiscal Officer. This will simplify the work for all.

IMPLEMENTATION.

We suggested to most of the Posts on our trip that selection funds should be given to the PPOs in a lump sum or in substantial portions until

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

expended, as these funds are quite small and the PPO should not have to go to the Fiscal Officer with a purchase of very inexpensive items each time they are brought. Many of the Fiscal Officers to whom we spoke either suggested this on their own initiative or acquiesced in our suggestion. We do not know the extent to which this internal Embassy adjustment has been made, although any Embassy could probably make the change on its own. If a Departmental instruction is needed, it will require a basic adjustment to pertinent State Department fiscal regulations.

10. RECOMMENDATION.

IGB/FP should communicate directly with the Publications Procurement Officer in the Consulate at Sao Paulo, and this Officer should be given his own selection funds independent of Rio de Janeiro. This is recommended because of the importance of Sao Paulo as a publications center, and the impending decline of Rio as a major center for publications. The Minister/Counselor at the Embassy in Rio has approved this arrangement, and steps should be taken to implement it.

IMPLEMENTATION.

This recommendation was implemented in the field with the approval of the Minister/Counselor in Rio. Departmental approval was received on return from our trip. The PPO in Sao Paulo has been operating in accordance with this recommendation since the start of FY61.

11. RECOMMENDATION.

As long as the present Chinese Communist ban on the normal export of their publications continues, the Publications Procurement Officers should exercise special vigilance in watching for their appearance in bookstores and on newsstands throughout Latin America. However, at the present time, this does not promise to produce many publications, and therefore temporary arrangements have been made [REDACTED] to procure such Chinese publications wherever possible [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

25X1C

25X1C

IMPLEMENTATION.

Oral briefings were given by us on this subject to the Ambassadors, [REDACTED]

25X1X4

SECRET

SECRET

-6-

25X1X4

[REDACTED]

12. RECOMMENDATION.

[REDACTED]

IMPLEMENTATION.

This recommendation has been brought to Mr. McAfee's attention, but the results are not yet known.

13. RECOMMENDATION.

25X1C

[REDACTED]

IMPLEMENTATION.

This recommendation was brought to the attention of the DD/S who has presumably called it to the attention of the Central Processing Division. It has also been reported to the Department of State.

SECRET

SECRET

-7-

Results of our trip at individual posts are as follows:

MEXICO

One of the main purposes of our trip was to strengthen the extremely weak PFO performance in Latin America. In Mexico City, Ambassador Hill, at our request, appointed a new and seemingly vigorous PFO whose predecessor's performance had been minimal. The new PFO, Mr. Vallimarescu, accompanied us to several bookstores and gave considerable promise. Shortly after we left, however, he fell ill, and, together with the fact that we had cleaned out the local bookstores pretty well during our visit, the result was that there was little activity except response to specific orders for a couple of months. By early summer, however, Mr. Vallimarescu had begun a not-to-heavy, but still regular, selection activity - largely new publications of the political magazine type and some propaganda booklets, including one on the Powers Case. His selections are usually covered with some sort of report on the publications. There are present indications of a gradual lessening of selection material from PFO, Mexico, and we are still awaiting a reply to a letter sent in October on a specific matter. All in all, Mexico is much improved over previous performance, and, while it may be considered almost satisfactory in view of the fact that we have only a part time PFO there, we are still short of the full potential from this Post.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala has a very low book potential, and we get almost no selection items from Mr. Rayle, the ad hoc PFO. It seems to us, however, that if Mr. Rayle tried just a little bit harder he might turn up some political agitation, Communist or anti-Communist material of value.

PANAMA

In Panama, the ad hoc PFO, Mr. Bridges, started off with a rush of enthusiasm and has now petered off to nothing. Actually there may be very little or nothing to get, because Panama's book potential for us is extremely low. Mr. Bridges has a fine reputation as a young PFO and at one time wanted to get a full time Regional PFO job. It might be good to consider him for that position in Moscow.

PERU

In Lima, we still have the same problems because of the advanced age of the ad hoc PFO. The specific orders, handled by a local, come in quite reliably, together with a flood of "cultural" material which is of little value to the Intelligence Community. Fortunately, most of it is free; some of it is sent to State, but most of it goes to the Library of Congress Exchange and Gift Division. We still have a minor problem in the irregular arrival of the Communist paper Unidad.

SECRET

SECRET

-8-

CHILE

In Santiago, Chile, the incredibly poor PFO has been promoted and departed. We have sent the usual letter of greeting to the new PFO, to which he has responded; but a lack of a new Selection Guide and funds, together with the inertia of his predecessor, leave the situation a question mark. The specific orders are handled satisfactorily; however, Santiago is too good a book town not to have much better exploitation. We will have some light on the new PFO after [REDACTED] trip to the area.

25X1A9a

ARGENTINA

25X1A9a

In Buenos Aires, the ad hoc PFO, [REDACTED] is doing a minimum in selection - just enough to prevent saying that she is doing nothing. Specific orders, handled by a local, come in all right, but as this is the number one book town in Latin America, a rock bottom minimum is far from helpful to the program. [REDACTED] does not like the Post, had hoped not to be reassigned back there after her home leave, and is doing poorly, [REDACTED] as an Intelligence Research Analyst in the Department.

25X1A9a

25X1A

URUGUAY

In Montevideo, Mr. Hart has lived up to the hopes we had for him as PFO. He works at the job and has produced a pretty steady and reasonably good stream of selection items; he reports well on his selections and on our orders, and his selection standard has improved. He is well above the average for the area; this may be partly due to the splendid attitude of Ambassador Woodward [REDACTED]

25X1A6a

BRAZIL

25X1A

One of the results of our trip was the establishment of a semi-autonomous PFO in Sao Paulo, Brazil. However, we were apprehensive of the caliber of the PFO designated there, and our fears have been borne out. Specific orders come in well, but selection activity is minimal. Sao Paulo is a good book town, and the PFO should be selecting and reporting much more heavily than he does at present. He lacks initiative; he needs a little prodding, and this will be attempted.

In Rio, the former PFO left the Post last spring and no replacement was announced until January 1961. However, virtually all of the PFO work is handled in Rio by a local who has continued handling specific orders and selection with a fair degree of acceptability.

SECRET

SECRET

-9-

VENEZUELA

In Venezuela, the ad hoc PFO, Mr. Cox, was one for whom, like Mr. Hart in Montevideo, we had great hopes. It appears that these hopes were well founded, for Mr. Cox makes good selections, reports well, and appears to be doing his best in the time available.

IN SUMMARY

There was some stimulation of interest in the PFO work among some of the PFOs as a result of our briefings on our trip. Selection activity and reporting back at some Posts, have improved to some varying degrees over the previous low levels, although it has rarely reached what we feel to be a relatively easily attainable level, except at Montevideo and Caracas. Now there has been an appreciable decline at some Posts over the initial spurt which followed our trip. This is true of Mexico and to some degree of Panama, Argentina, and Rio. This may be attributed in part to the Department's failure to get the Selection Guide to the field more promptly. Thus, as pointed out above, the PFOs will have operated through almost three-fourths of this fiscal year without the current guide. However, this has not affected at least two posts - Montevideo and Caracas - as noted above.

On the positive side, this trip has provided CIA with fresh and visible data for maintaining pressure on the State Department to make the PFO program workable or surrender the responsibility. Our appreciation of the actual problems of the ad hoc PFO's in the field has been sharpened, and we have been given a better basis for assessing their performance. However, we feel that we can also better assess the poor performances, and we find comparatively little ground for condoning them. It is still our opinion that the claim that many of these ad hoc PFOs are "too busy" to perform this part time function (which, in fact, contributes little to the advancement of their professional PFO careers), does not excuse poor performance of a function covered by State Department Directives.

25X1A9a

From the standpoint of [REDACTED] Latin America Area Coordinator, AB/ty, the trip enabled him to refresh and expand his grasp of the publications field in Latin America. It is his feeling that he is far better able to serve his customers with information, advice, and actual service following this trip, because he can better manage and correlate the placement of orders and the levying of requirements, and can allot end-users' funds with greater accuracy, knowing both the area and the personnel involved. [REDACTED] states that he now contacts and is contacted by more customers than before the trip; and now maintains fairly regular contact with [REDACTED] RAR (State) components with whom he did comparatively little business previously.

25X1A9a

25X1A

25X1A9a

SECRET